Public Law 97-360
97th Congress

An Act

Oct. 22, 1982
[H.R. 4828]

To set aside certain surplus vessels for use in the provision of health and other humanitarian services to developing countries.

Certain surplus vessels for health services to developing countries.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress finds that it is in the national interest to make suitable surplus Government vessels available for use by private nonprofit organizations in providing health education, training, care, and technical assistance as well as other humanitarian services to the peoples of developing countries.

SEC. 2. Within ninety days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall designate the vessels listed in section 6 as humanitarian service candidates.

SEC. 3. Except as provided in section 4, the vessels listed in section 6 may not be removed from the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

SEC. 4. The vessels listed in section 6 may be removed from the National Defense Reserve Fleet for either of the following reasons:

(a) When the Secretary determines that one or more of the vessels are required for national security purposes, or

(b) Upon the application of LIFE International, a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, the Secretary may transfer one or more of the vessels to LIFE International upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe.

SEC. 5. During such time as any one of the vessels is in the possession of LIFE International, it shall be operated as an eleemosynary vessel primarily engaged in providing health education, training, care, technical assistance, and other humanitarian services to the peoples of developing countries. No such vessel may be used for commercial transportation purposes. In the event that LIFE International no longer requires a vessel for the purposes of this Act, that vessel shall be conveyed back to the United States in as good condition as when received, ordinary wear and tear excepted, to the point of original delivery without cost to the United States.

Vessel return to U.S.

SEC. 6. This Act shall apply to the following vessels currently held in the National Defense Reserve Fleet:
United States Ship General Nelson M. Walker P2-SE2-R1
United States Ship Donner LSD-20
United States Ship Colonial LSD-18

SEC. 7. This Act shall expire by its terms five calendar years after the date of enactment. Expiration.

Approved October 22, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4828:

HOUSE REPORT No. 97-734 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
Aug. 17, considered and passed House.
Oct. 1, considered and passed Senate.